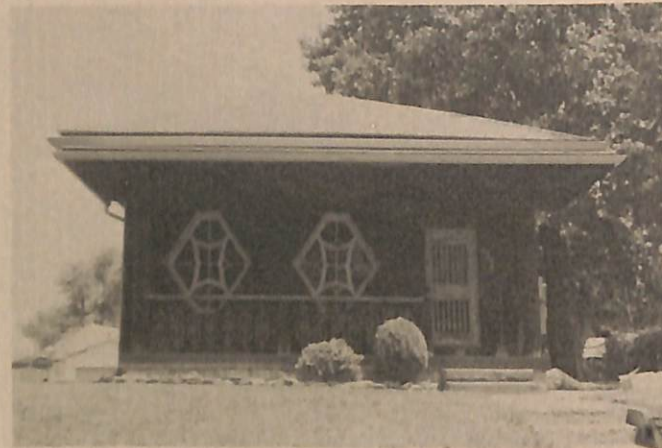
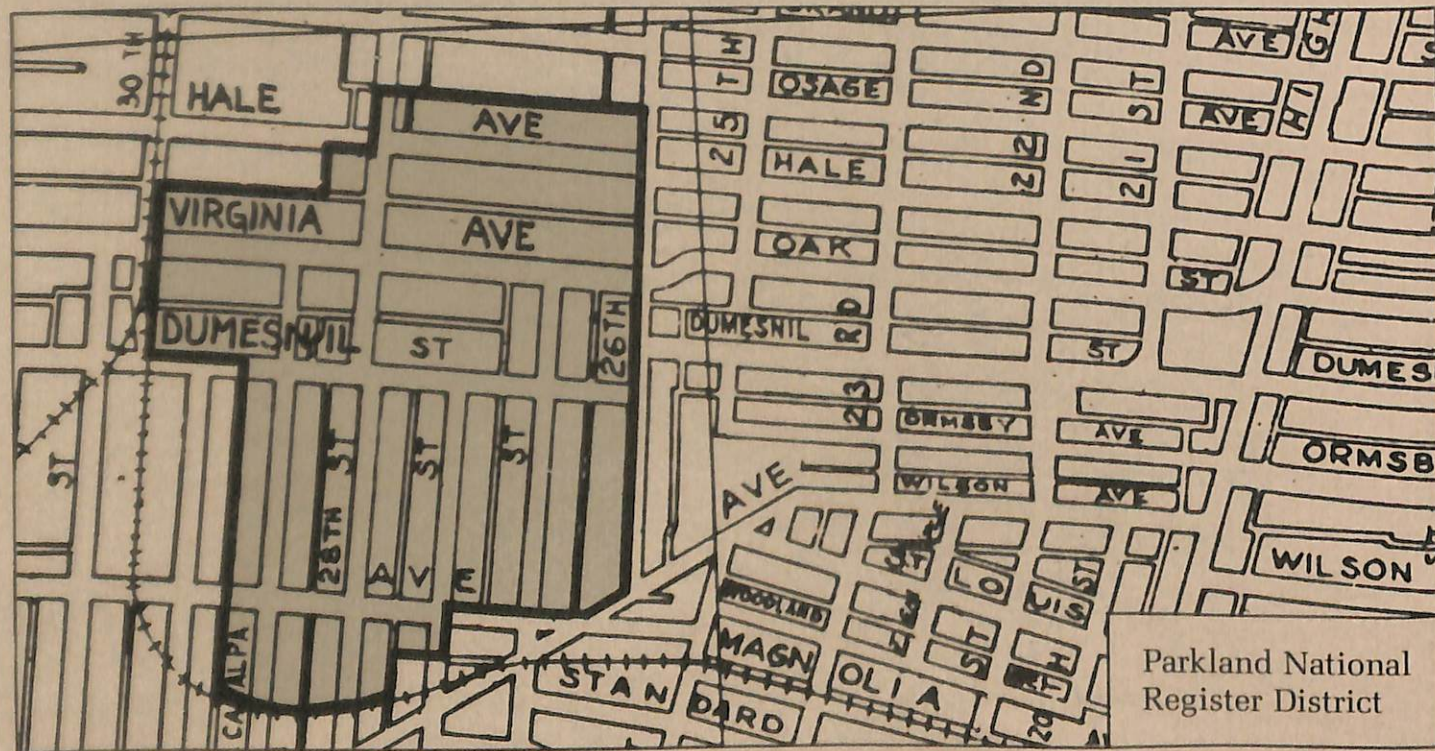




Fish-scale shingles, barge boards and Victorian bric-a-brac are the hallmark of the Parkland neighborhood.



This remuddled shotgun house bears no design relationship to its Victorian neighbors and is considered a non-contributing element to the Parkland National Register District.



Parkland National Register District

## PARKLAND

While Old Louisville and Russell were being subdivided for suburban residential development in the 1880s, the town of Parkland, Kentucky was an established, chartered, rural community enjoying a growth rate comparable to many late nineteenth-century suburbs. In 1890, a tornado which devastated many areas of Louisville, including the tobacco district on West Main Street, cut a swath through Parkland, destroying many of its homes. By 1894, unable to fully recover from the disaster, Parkland was annexed by the City of Louisville and became one of its most desirable neighborhoods.

It was during Parkland's rebuilding in the 1890s that a precedent was set, partly due to speculative development. Substantial frame residences were constructed in this decade with creative and unusual shingling methods employed, as well as several architectural designs unique to Louisville. It is because of the quality and uniqueness of architectural design and workmanship that Parkland is regarded as one of Louisville's finest Victorian neighborhoods, particularly in frame construction. From mansions to shotguns, examples are abundant.



The modern design of the funeral home on the right is in sharp contrast to the Victorian residence on the left.

The Parkland Historic District, a small part of the Parkland neighborhood, has a remarkably high rate of owner occupancy for what has become a depressed inner-city neighborhood. The per capita income is not high, but the residents share a very strong sense of pride and Parkland has one of Louisville's most active neighborhood organizations. The housing stock, as well as the small commercial core at 28th and Dumesnil, has deteriorated through the years at an alarming rate. Many of the large residences, along Virginia Avenue and Dumesnil Street particularly, require extensive renovation.

After several years of planning, it appears that Parkland is on the verge of a significant rebirth. Aware of the value of their historic buildings and related tax benefits for potential developers, a recently formed business association has requested and received Preservation District status for the business district. New Directions Inc., a private non-profit housing corporation, recently unveiled a housing program which will see the renovation of ten vacant structures, using the investment tax credit to lure investors. The City of Louisville is assisting their efforts. Now it appears, is the time for investment in Parkland.